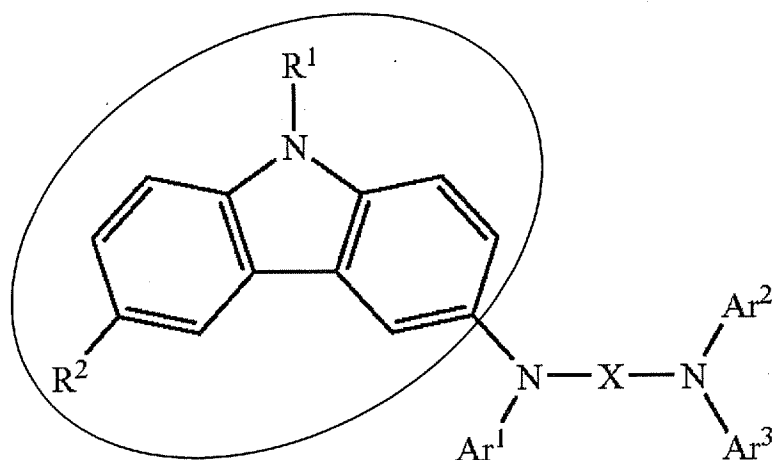


Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because the Official Action has not made a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

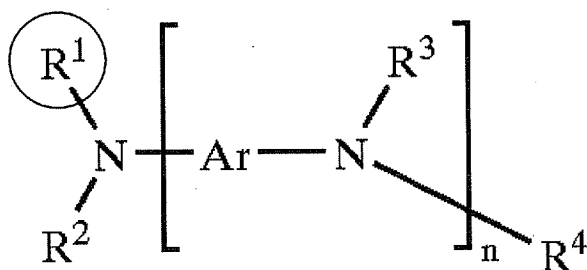
As stated in MPEP §§ 2142-2144.04, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some reason, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some reason to do so found either explicitly or implicitly in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. "The test for an implicit showing is what the combined teachings, knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art, and the nature of the problem to be solved as a whole would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art." In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The prior art, either alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest all the features of the independent claims. Independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25 and 29 recite at least one carbazole derivative represented by general formulas (1), (3), (5) and (103). For example, general formula (1) is reproduced and annotated below.

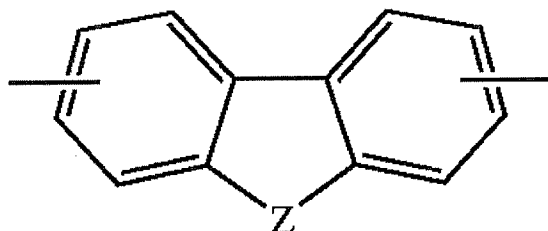


For the reasons provided below, Richter does not teach or suggest the above-referenced features of the present invention.

Richter discloses triarylamine derivatives represented by general formula 1 (see paragraph [0011]; general formula 1 reproduced and annotated below).



The Official Action asserts that "Richter further discloses the R1 to R4 [of Richter] can be represented by Fragment 4 Shown below" (page 4, Paper No. 20090612; "Fragment 4" in the Official Action refers to formula 3 or 6 of Richter, reproduced below).



The Official Action appears to assert that R1 of Richter should correspond to a structure of the formula (1) of the present claims, which is annotated above with an oval. The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the assertions in the Official Action.

Richter discloses that the "Fragment 4" is formula 3 or 6 and both formulas 3 and 6 show structures of Ar (see paragraphs [0018] and [0038] of Richter, i.e. "Ar is ..."). The structures of R1 to R4 in Richter are disclosed in paragraphs [0014] to [0017]. Richter fails to teach or suggest that any one of R1 to R4 of Richter is represented by "Fragment 4," which is formula 3 or 6. As such, the triarylamine derivative of Richter is different from the structure of the carbazole derivative of the present claims.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Richter does not teach or suggest at least one carbazole derivative represented by general formulas (1), (3), (5) and (103).

Since Richter does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

Paragraph 7 of the Official Action rejects dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28, 31 and 32 as obvious based on the combination of Richter, Thomas ("Light-Emitting Carbazole Derivatives: Potential Electroluminescent Materials," J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2001, 123, 9404-9411), and U.S. Publication No. 2006/0073357 to Brunner. Please incorporate the arguments above with respect to the deficiencies in Richter. Thomas and Brunner do not cure the deficiencies in Richter. The Official Action relies on Thomas and Brunner to allegedly teach the features of the above-referenced dependent claims. However, Richter, Thomas and Brunner, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that Richter should be modified to include at least one carbazole derivative represented by general formulas (1), (3), (5) and (103). Since Richter, Thomas and Brunner do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly,

reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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